

**1. How do you plan to involve young professionals in the decision-making process in Lincoln?**

Encourage the involvement of YPG members on community advisory boards; perhaps, creating an internship position at city council.

**2. How will you approach economic recovery in Lincoln in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Our continued focus on public health and vaccinations is critical to increasing the comfort of citizens to move more freely within the community and frequent local businesses. In the months ahead, we need to bring Lincolniters together to celebrate our strength and generosity over the past year.



**Sändra Washington**

**3. Lincoln is facing a housing crisis. Access to entry level homes and apartments is practically nonexistent for recent graduates. What is your plan to address this?**

One of the keys to affordability is sustainable growth, which we can do by improving our city's resiliency to climate changes, managing the growth at the edges, encouraging redevelopment of areas within Lincoln, and taking care of infrastructure (streets, utilities, broadband). Many of us can relate to the issue of housing affordability, regardless of where we live or how much we earn. We all want quality housing options that fit what we can afford to pay. My current focus is on affordability at lower incomes, where we have the least availability of units to meet our community's need. To meet that need, Lincoln will need private and public stakeholders to work together, utilizing a variety of financing mechanisms, as well as a review of regulatory timeframes, careful consideration of building codes and public investments in infrastructure.

**4. Young professionals see equality as a top concern. If elected, how would you ensure equity and inclusivity in the city?**

I believe the people sitting in leadership need to be accessible, compassionate and committed to making sure the City's programs and policies are distributed equitably and enacted fairly. As your next Councilperson, I'll work with a broad coalition to move forward on equity and social justice. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled (Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia) the 1964 Civil Rights Act extended to individuals who are discriminated based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Because of that, we probably need to align our municipal code with that ruling.

**5. Discuss your approach to budgeting. What will you prioritize, and why?**

As your next Councilperson, I'll work with the Mayor, neighborhoods and business leaders on smart and sustainable growth, public health and safety, and make the necessary infrastructure investments to keep pace with our future.

**6. What neighborhood do you live in? Why? Where are your favorite places to spend time in Lincoln?**

I live in the neighborhood around Irving Middle School. We like the older homes, the large trees, and the walkability of the neighborhood close proximity to downtown. Before COVID, I used to hang out at coffeehouses around town, the farmer's markets and Soul Night at the Old English Pub. Since COVID, any time outdoors with friends is precious.

**7. If Lincoln's flag were to be redesigned, what traits and aspects of Lincoln would you like to see symbolized?**

I'd like to see the Sunken Gardens, trails, and our welcoming nature shine through in the design.